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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Assistive technology is technology used by
3 individuals with disabilities in order to perform life
4 functions that otherwise might be difficult or impossible; and

5 WHEREAS, Assistive technology benefits individuals with a
6 broad range of disabilities of any age and in most domains of
7 life, including the home, workplace, community, and school; and

8 WHEREAS, The technology benefiting individuals with
9 disabilities continues to develop at a rapid pace; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a growing need and demand for assistive
11 technology for persons with disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, New assistive technology for many individuals
13 with disabilities in Illinois may be unavailable due to cost
14 and other factors; and

15 WHEREAS, Assistive technology reutilization or "reuse"
16 programs make assistive technology more affordable for persons
17 with disabilities who otherwise would go without it; and

18 WHEREAS, There is a growing recognition nationally that
19 assistive technology reuse programs can address an unmet need

1 for assistive technology for persons with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, Illinois' Medicaid program covers durable medical
3 equipment (DME), which can include assistive technology; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois' Medicaid program does not include an
5 assistive technology reuse service; and

6 WHEREAS, Several other states have successfully
7 implemented assistive technology reuse programs as part of
8 their Medicaid plan and have realized cost savings; and

9 WHEREAS, The success of other states' assistive technology
10 reuse programs depends on a partnership between their state
11 Medicaid agency and the state Assistive Technology program,
12 which take products in, make sure they are sanitized and
13 repaired, post their availability to the public, match them to
14 consumers, and ship the products out to consumers; therefore,
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 there is created the Medicaid Assistive Technology Reuse Task
19 Force in the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to
20 review and make recommendations with respect to how Illinois
21 and its residents with disabilities might benefit from an

1 assistive technology reuse program as part of the Medicaid
2 program coverage of durable medical equipment, including the
3 potential for net cost savings from such a program and
4 increased availability of assistive technology for consumers;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall, among other relevant
7 issues, review assistive technology reuse programs in other
8 states and the partnerships with assistive technology projects
9 in those states; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the members of Task Force shall be appointed
11 by the Director of Healthcare and Family Services not later
12 than January 1, 2014; the Task Force shall include a
13 representative of the Illinois' federally-funded Assistive
14 Technology project, at least one person with a disability,
15 appropriate staff from the Department, a disability advocate,
16 and other individuals deemed appropriate by the Director; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Department of Healthcare and Family
19 Services shall facilitate the Task Force and provide the Task
20 Force with administrative support; the Department shall
21 convene the Task Force at least three times, with the first
22 meeting to occur not later than January 15, 2014, and issue a
23 report with findings and recommendations to the General

1 Assembly and to the Governor on or before March 1, 2014; and be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Governor and the Director of Healthcare and
5 Family Services.